



## New Business Profile

### The Foodsmith

a friendly new gathering place

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CLIPPER REPORTER

#### The Foodsmith owner Laura Raposa

The Foodsmith, Duxbury's newest bakery/gourmet lunch-to-go shop, which opened at 17 Standish Street on August 26, welcomes as much as it entices – with locally grown produce and freshly homemade baked items.

The Foodsmith owner Laura Raposa, a career wordsmith who traded in her keyboard for an oven, is no newcomer to the world of baking, having grown up frequenting her grandparents bakery in East Providence, RI.

When asked what prompted her to open The Foodsmith, Raposa quickly responded that baking has been in her DNA for 54 years. The family business that began as that East Providence bakery evolved into a baking supplies company.

In 2013, Raposa left the Boston Herald after thirty years as a writer. She began there as a college senior and ended her career as co-editor of the "Inside Track," a celebrity news column she wrote for twenty-one years, six days a week. Raposa's husband and business partner Steven Syre, a retired Boston Globe assistant business editor, helps out at The Foodsmith.

For her employees, Raposa has found skilled local talent. She calls Duxbury resident Betsy Hunter, who has long been known for her baking skills and artistic cakes, "more than my right hand." Together, the two bakers share favorite family recipes, offering changing daily delights. Custom birthday cake orders are taken a day in advance. One satisfied customer was overheard to comment: "Everything is so amazing here, especially the Cinnabuns!" Even a man visiting from Britain was so impressed with Raposa's scones that he asked her for the recipe.

A sign on the wall begged the next question...

The sign read: "Stressed is Desserts spelled BACKWARDS."

So how does the stress of owning a bakery compare with writing a daily newspaper column?

"The stress factor is the same," Raposa said, "but similarly, every day like every column, is different – what's on the page or daily menu, as well as who walks in the door, is always different."